

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WUSHU

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1. WUSHU TROUPE, WHICH PLAYED 15 WELL-ATTENDED PERFORMANCES IN FOUR US CITIES, CERTAINLY CAN BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC SUCCESS. PRESS REVIEWS WERE PREDOMINANTLY FAVORABLE AND PRAISED SKILL AND SHOWMANSHIP OF PERFORMERS. NATIONAL COMMITTEE STAFFER, AFTER PREVIEWING SHOW IN MEXICO CITY, EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT SHOW WAS OF SUFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL CALIBER TO ATTRACT US AUDIENCES. CONSULTATIONS WITH CHINESE HELPED TIGHTEN UP PERFORMANCES AND IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT SHOW IMPROVED AT EACH US STOP.

2. THERE WERE PROBLEMS BACKSTAGE, HOWEVER, WITH CHINESE BLAMING NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SEVERAL ALLEGED LAPSES IN TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS. ATMOSPHERE HIT ROCK BOTTOM JULY 4 WHEN PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI TOLD COMMITTEE THAT AMBASSADORS HUANG CHEN AND HAN HSU BOTH WERE UNHAPPY WITH PLACEMENT OF COMPLIMENTARY SEATS IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN AND LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DRESS REHEARSAL IN KENNEDY CENTER. WHILE CHINESE MAY HAVE HAD SOME CAUSE FOR

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COMPLAINT IN EACH CASE, IT DID APPEAR THAT THEIR ATTITUDE

TOWARD THE COMMITTEE IN GENERAL WAS OVERLY PROVOCATIVE.

3. ACRIMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE APPEARED SUBSTANTIALLY DISPELLED BY GLOWING PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL SUCCESSES DURING WASHINGTON STAY. SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER ACCOMPANIED BY THE HUANG CHENS AND HAN HSU AS GUESTS, VIEWED JULY 10 OPENING PERFORMANCE FROM PRESIDENTIAL BOX. EBULLIENT OVER SUCCESS OF EVENING, KUO LEI AND PRCLO OFFICIALS HUGGED PERFORMERS ON BUS RETURNING TO HOTEL. CHINESE ALSO APPEARED HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF HIGH-LEVEL RECOGNITION AND ACCLAIM REFLECTED IN PRESIDENTIAL ROSE GARDEN AUDIENCE JULY 12.

4. BLAME FOR PAUCITY OF MEDIA COVERAGE ATTRIBUTABLE MORE TO UNACCEPTABLE CHINESE DEMANDS FOR CONTROL OVER BROADCASTING THAN TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S FAILURE TO PROMOTE EFFORT. IN FACT COMMITTEE HAD STRONG FINANCIAL AND PUBLICITY INTERESTS IN MAXIMIZING MEDIA COVERAGE AND WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AT FAILURE.

5. ON FILM COVERAGE, IT WAS STRINGENT CHINESE CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY DEMAND FOR FINAL EDITING RIGHTS, THAT SCOTCHED PLANS FOR MAJOR TV SHOW OF TROUPE'S PERFORMANCE. NATIONAL COMMITTEE HAD ARRANGED TO HAVE PRODUCED HOUR-LENGTH FILM OF TROUPE, BUT ABC NETWORK, RELUCTANT TO MAKE ITSELF VULNERABLE TO PUBLIC CRITICISM THAT IT ALLOWING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CENSOR ITS PROGRAMMING, WITHDREW ITS OFFER AIR PROGRAM. WHEREUPON, PRODUCER DROPPED FILMING PLANS. ACCORDING TO COMMITTEE STAFFER, KUO LEI, HIMSELF, WAS ONE OF THOSE MOST ADAMANT IN PRESSING CHINESE DEMANDS.

6. TROUPE'S PERFORMANCES DID RECEIVE LOCAL AND SOME NETWORK NEWS COVERAGE.

7. WE ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF CHECKING INTO AVAILABILITY OF FILM FOOTAGE OF TROUPE'S PERFORMANCES AND WILL ADVISE SOONEST.

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